

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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R 170802Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9934
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0295

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: XF, PEPR
SUBJECT: YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC PROPOSAL FOR ARAB SUMMIT: KUWAITI
REACTION

1. AFTER YAR FON MIN ASNAJ'S JANUARY 12 BRIEF VISIT TO
KUWAIT, LOCAL PRESS QUOTED HIM AS ADVOCATING THE HOLDING OF
AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO RESTORE ARAB SOLIDARITY. THE
YAR AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSMEN LATER THAT ASNAJ'S
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TRIP WAS DESIGNED TO SOUND OUT KUWAITI OPINION ON
"PRE-CONDITIONS" FOR HOLDING A SUMMIT.

2. YAR EMBOFF TOLD POL OFF JAN. 16 THAT ASNAJ WAS VISITING
A NUMBER OF ARAB CAPITALS TO PUSH A YAR SUMMIT PROPOSAL
ORIGINALLY MADE BY AL-HAMDI PRIOR TO THE TUNIS FON MINS
CONFERENCE (BEFORE SADAT WENT TO ISRAEL) AND REVIVED BY

AL-GHASHMI. HE SAID THAT THE MAIN YEMENI GOAL IS A TOP-LEVEL DISCUSSION (WITHOUT A TIGHT AGENDA) OF ARAB UNITY, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 1978, DESIGNED TO RESTORE ARAB UNITY AT LEAST TO THE STAGE IT "ENJOYED" BEFORE THE TRIPOLI SUMMIT. ASNAJ HAD OUTLINED THE YAR POSITION IN KUWAIT AS ONE WHICH SPECIFICALLY PRECLUDED THE TRIPOLI SUMMIT AND ITS RESOLUTIONS FROM BEING DISCUSSED AT THE SUMMIT WHICH THE YAR PROPOSES, SINCE OTHERWISE SADAT WOULD NOT ATTEND AND THE SUMMIT WOULD BE WORTHLESS. YAR EMBOFF ASSERTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD EVEN SUPPORT A SUMMIT IN BAGHDAD IF IT HAD THE KIND OF AGENDA WHICH THE YEMENIS HAD IN MIND. WHEN POL OFF INQUIRED WHETHER THE YEMENIS SERIOUSLY BELIVED THAT THEY COULD GET SADAT, ASAD, QADHAFI, ETC., TO MEET TOGETHER NEXT MONTH OR ANY TIME SOON, HE SHRUGGED AND SAID "WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE."

3. KUWAIT MFA ARAB AFFAIRS OFFICERS OUTLINED TO POL OFF JAN. 16 THE KUWAITI REACTION TO ASNAJ'S VISIT. THEY NOTED SMILINGLY THAT THE YAR ADVOCATES SUMMITS MORE OFTEN THAN ANY GOVERNMENT IN THE REGION AND SPECULATED THAT AL-GHASHMI HAD REVIVED AL-HAMDI'S CALL FOR A MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE IN ORDER TO TRY TO PROJECT A YEMENI IMAGE OF ACTIVITY AND LEADERSHIP IN THE ARAB WORLD, AND PERHAPS TO DEMONSTRATE CONTINUITY IN YEMENI FOREIGN POLICY DESPITE AL-HAMDI'S DEATH. THEY IMPLIED THAT KUWAITI LEADERS HAD LECTURED ASNAJ ON THE POLITICAL FACTS
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OF LIFE DURING THE CURRENT PERIOD OF INTRA-ARAB TENSION, A PERIOD IN WHICH ANY HOPES FOR AN ALL-ECOMPASSING SUMMIT TO RESTORE ARAB UNITY WERE TOTALLY UNREALISTIC.
MAESTRONE

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